

## STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

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## Six Iowa Schools Named 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools

Schools nominated by the lowa Department of Education show gains in student achievement.

**DES MOINES, Iowa –** The Iowa Department of Education today announced that five Iowa public schools and one accredited nonpublic school have been identified by the U. S. Department of Education as 2009 No Child Left Behind– Blue Ribbon Schools.

## The lowa schools are:

- Central Springs Elementary-Manly Campus, North Central Community School District
- Earlville Elementary School, Maquoketa Valley Community School District
- Horizon Elementary School, Johnston Community School District
- Nixon Elementary School, Cedar Rapids Community School District
- West Lyon High School, West Lyon Community School District
- Resurrection School, Dubuque

"lowa schools are working hard to help all students achieve and provide the supports needed for students to succeed," said lowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey. "As we celebrate the success of these schools, lowa teachers and administrators across the state know there is still much to do and are working with our students every day to continue the effort."

The No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; and 2) Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

The public schools were nominated by the Iowa Department of Education based on 2007-2008 achievement data.

A total of 413 schools across the country were named 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools. A complete list of 2009 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools is available at <a href="http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html">http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html</a>.

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of lowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.